

Application No. 09/846,074
Reply to Office Action dated November 13, 2003

REMARKS

Pursuant to the Office Action mailed on November 13, 2003, claims 15, 16 and 23-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Franz et al., (U.S. Patent No. 6,107,996, hereinafter "Franz"). The remaining claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as follows:

- 1-6, 10, 11, 13, 14, 17-22, 26 and 28-30 over Goodman (U.S. Patent No. 6,100,875, hereinafter "Goodman") in view of Franz;
- claims 7 and 8 over Goodman in view of Thorne, III et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,805,165, hereinafter "Thorne");
- claim 12 over Goodman in view of Ito (U.S. Patent No. 5,852,431 hereinafter "Ito"); and
- claim 27 over Goodman in view of Franz and in further view of Thorne.

In this reply, independent claims 1, 10, 15, 17, 23 and 26 have been amended. Additionally, dependent claim 25 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

Goodman utilizes a special function key to cause designated "mouse keys" to emulate a mouse. In this way, the specialized keys become the pointing device. Franz also uses a specialized key to act as a pointing device. For example, the "J" key may be coupled to direction sensors to act as a pointing device under certain circumstances. Column 8, lines 46-49. Further, the "D" and "F" keys may be designated for emulating pointing events such as pressing and releasing mouse buttons. Column 13, lines 34-53. Thus, the keys of Franz's keyboard may function either in the "usual fashion" or have a new function depending upon the present mode of the system. Column 3, lines 62-67. That is, the system of Franz may be in the typing mode, where the keys of the keyboard function as they usually do or the system may be in a pointing mode where the keys are assigned new functions such as the "J" key for pointing and the "D" and "F" keys for mouse clicking. As such, interruption of the text entry by accidental activation of a pointing device that is separate or distinct from the keys of a keyboard is not addressed by Franz.

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Inadvertent activation of a pointing device while typing is common in instances where a pointing device is integrated with the keyboard yet distinct from the keys of a keyboard such as with some laptop or notebook-type computers. Some embodiments of the present invention address this problem. For example, in some embodiments while the user is typing on such a system the cursor is automatically adjusted or controlled in a way that will prevent inadvertent interruption of the user's typing due to accidental activation of the pointing device.

As mentioned, Franz fails to address this problem. Further, Franz and Goodman both teach away from a pointing device that is separate from the keys of a keyboard yet integrated into the keyboard. Franz at column 3, lines 32-35; Goodman at column 1, line 65 through column 2, line 8. As such, independent claims 1, 10, 23 and 26 (as amended) and the claims dependent there from are not believed to be anticipated or obvious in view of the cited references.

As amended, independent claim 15 recites receive a user-selected option to control a cursor of a pointing device in response to detecting a non specific key activation, the control of the cursor to reduce the likelihood of accidental interruption of user input, and store the user-selected option in a storage unit. It is respectfully submitted that Franz fails to disclose user-selection of an option to control a cursor, the control of the cursor to reduce the likelihood of accidental interruption of user input and storing the user-selected option in a storage unit. For example, in Franz, the cursor may change in appearance when the user changes from a typing mode to a pointing mode. Column 11, lines 54-56; column 12, lines 12-14. Further, when in the pointing mode, the cursor may be temporarily frozen when emulation of a "mouse click" takes place. Column 13, line 62-column 14, line 17. However, Franz fails to disclose that the state of the controlled cursor is defined by the user's preference and that the user's preference is stored in a storage unit. Thus, Franz is not believed to anticipate claim 15 as amended and claim 16.

Claim 17 has been amended to recite configure an option to control a cursor of a pointing device based on a selected preference of a user, the control of the cursor to enable user input without accidental interference from said pointing device, detect a key activation, and control the